



Commander, Naval Surface Force, Atlantic

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U.S. NAVY



USS SIMPSON (FFG 56)

Guided Missile Frigate

Homeport: Mayport, Florida

www.simpson.navy.mil



USS SIMPSON (FFG 56) is an Oliver Hazard Perry Class guided missile frigate, designed as a multi-role open-ocean escort ship for merchant vessel convoys and amphibious task groups. This ship is named for Rear Admiral Rodger Whitten Simpson, who distinguished himself during World War II as a Flotilla Commander. Simpson was built by Bath Iron Works, Maine, and formally commissioned on 21 September 1985. Though starting with her homeport in Newport, Rhode Island, SIMPSON changed homeports to Norfolk, Virginia on 31 March 1994 after returning from Haiti; she now works under the direction of COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON SIX.

In January 1986, SIMPSON participated in the search and rescue efforts for the Space Shuttle CHALLENGER, receiving the U.S. Coast Guard Unit Commendation with Operational "O."

On SIMPSON'S first oversea deployment in January 1988, the ship was assigned as an escort to U.S. flagged merchant vessels in the Arabian Gulf. On 18 April 1988, SIMPSON was a principle unit of OPERATION PRAYING MANTIS in response to the Iranian mine attack on USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (FFG 58). Operating in conjunction with two other Navy ships, SIMPSON was responsible for the destruction of an Iranian oil platform and the sinking of the Iranian Navy missile patrol combatant, JOSHAN. The ship was awarded the Joint Meritorious Unit Award and the Combat Action Ribbon for this operation. SIMPSON, along with USS CONSTITUTION, remains the only commissioned surface ship to have sunk an enemy combatant in anger. SIMPSON was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for the deployment.

SIMPSON deployed in February 1998 with the JOHN C. STENNIS Battle Group. The ship was assigned as part of NATO's Standing Naval Force Mediterranean and conducted operations in the Mediterranean, Adriatic Sea, and Northern Atlantic, participating in exercises STRONG RESOLVE, DESTINED GLORY and OPERATION DETERMINED FORCE.

SIMPSON returned to home port in July 1998. She deployed with the GEORGE WASHINGTON Battle Group in the summer of 2000 and returned February 2001. SIMPSON'S next deployment from June to November 2002 was to South America in support of OPERATION CAPER FOCUS, US SOUTHERN COMMAND'S mission combating narco-terrorism. While in Latin America SIMPSON also participated in UNITAS 43-02, a multi-nation training exercise with many South American and European navies.

SIMPSON completed her third homeport shift to Mayport, FL in July 2001, serving under the direction of COMMANDER DESTROYER SQUADRON SIX and NAVAL SURFACE GROUP TWO.

SHIP'S SPECIFICATIONS:

GENERAL

Length - 453 feet
Beam (Maximum)- 47 feet
Speed: 29+ knots
Draft (Navigational)- 22 feet
Displacement- 4,100 tons full load
Complement- 30 officers/770 enlisted

ENGINEERING

Propulsion: 2 LM 2500 Gas Turbine Engines
Rated at 21,500 BHP each
Electrical: 4 1000kw Detroit Diesel powered
SSDG's
Services:

SENSORS

AN/SQS-56 Digital Sonar
MK 92 MOD 2 Fire Control System
2D Air Search Radar
AN/SPS-55 Surface Search Radar

WEAPONS

MK 75 76MM/62 Caliber Oto Melara Cannon
MK15 block 1B Phalanx CWIS
MK 46 Mod 5 ASW Torpedoes
2 Mk 38 Mod 0 25MM Cannons
2 MK 32 Triple 324mm Surface Vessel
Torpedo Tubes

AIRCRAFT

2 SH-60B Light Airborne Multi-purpose system
MK III Helicopter

Keel Laid: February 27, 1984

Christened: August 31, 1984

Commissioned: September 21, 1985